

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a first network agent;  
a second network agent;  
a processing agent to receive data, process a protocol in connection with the data, and transmit the data to the second network agent, in which the processing agent also sends one or more events to the first network agent upon a change in the data being transmitted, the one or more originating at the processing agent.

2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first network agent is to monitor the data being transmitted to and received from the processing agent.

3. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising an event system coupled to the processing agent to store the events in the event system.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first network agent includes an algorithm for flow control for the connections.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the processing agent comprises a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) system.

6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the processing agent comprises a Server Load Balancing (SLB) system.

7. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the processing agent comprises an Extended Markup Language (XML) system.

8. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the events include at least one of an event type identification, a Transmission Control protocol (TCP) pointer, a controller handle, a controller length, and a controller prefetch.
9. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the data stored in the first network agent includes a header and a data portion.
10. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein the event system includes an event queue writer for writing the events into an event queue .
11. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
transporting data between the first network agent and a second network agent through a processing agent, and  
transporting one or more events from the processing agent to the first network agent upon a change in the data being transported, the one or more events originating at the processing agent.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the first network agent monitors data being transmitted to and received from the processing agent.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising performing flow control of the data sent from the first network agent to the second network agent.
14. (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising storing the events in an event system coupled to the processing agent.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the first network agent uses an algorithm for flow control for transporting data from the first network agent through the processing agent to the second network agent.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the processing agent comprises a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) System.
17. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the processing agent comprises a Server Load Balancing (SLB) system.
18. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the processing agent comprises an Extended Markup Language (XML) system.
19. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the events include at least one of an event type identification, a Transmission Control protocol (TCP) pointer, a controller handle, a controller length, and a controller prefetch.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the data includes a header and a data portion.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the event system includes an event queue writer to write the events into an event queue .
22. (currently amended) A machine-readable storage medium bearing machine-readable program code capable of causing a machine to:
  - store data in a first network agent;
  - transmit the data from the first network agent to a second network agent through a processing agent;
  - use the processing agent to process a protocol in connection with the data; and
  - transport one or more events from the processing agent to the first agent upon a change in the data being transmitted, the one or more events originating at the processing agent.

23. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the machine-readable program code further includes instructions to monitor the data being transmitted to and received from the processing agent.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the processing agent comprises a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) system.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the processing agent comprises a Server Load Balancing (SLB) system.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the processing agent comprises an Extended Markup Language (XML) system.

27. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the events include at least one of an event type identification, a Transmission Control protocol (TCP) pointer, a controller handle, a controller length, and a controller prefetch.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the data stored in the first network agent includes a header and a data portion.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the machine-readable program code further includes instructions to write the events in an event queue.

30. (currently amended) A Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) processing system comprising:

a first network agent to receive data packets from a server; and

a first processing agent to receive data packets, process a protocol in connection with the data packets, and transmit the data packets to a second network agent that is connected to a [[client;]] client, the first processing agent to transmit one or more events to the first network

agent, the one or more events originating at the processing agent and including information about a processing of the data packets;

wherein the first network agent controls transmission of data to the first processing agent at least in part based on the one or more events sent from the first processing agent.

31. (original) The TCP processing system of claim 30 further comprising a second processing agent.

32. (original) The TCP processing system of claim 30 wherein the processing agent is selected from a group comprising a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) system, a Server Load Balancing (SLB) system, and an Extended Markup Language (XML) system.

33. (previously presented) The TCP processing system of claim 32 further comprising a second processing agent that is selected a group comprising a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) system, a Server Load Balancing (SLB) system, and an Extended Markup Language (XML) system.

34. (original) The TCP processing system of claim 30 wherein the protocol is selected from a group comprising a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol, a Server Load Balancing (SLB) protocol, and an Extended Markup Language (XML) protocol.

35. (previously presented) The TCP processing system of claim 30 wherein the first network agent is to control a TCP receive window for performing flow control of the processing system.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 in which the data comprises Transmission Control Protocol packets.

37. (currently amended) A method comprising:

transmitting packets from a first agent to a second agent, including subjecting the packets to a sequence of processing by a series of processing agents that process protocols in connection with the packets;

keeping the first agent aware of a state of processing of the packets by providing one or more events from the processing agents to the first agent, the one or more events originating at the processing agents; and

controlling transmission of the packets from the first agent based at least in part on the events provided by the processing agents.